

# News Release

## *National Wildlife Refuge System*



**Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge  
La Crosse District  
555 Lester Ave.  
Onalaska, WI 54650**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2003

Contact: **Jim Nissen (608) 783-8401**

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Seeks Public Comment on Island Protection Project**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is seeking public comment on a construction project that would reduce shoreline erosion. Extensive erosion occurred on three small islands located off the southeastern tip of Rosebud Island (Pool 7) during the 2001 flood. It is important to protect the remaining shorelines from wave action because these islands protect aquatic vegetation that provides important habitat for fish, waterfowl, other migratory birds, furbearers, and amphibians.

The shoreline would be protected by placing rock along 280 feet of existing shoreline on the outer island and by constructing four offshore structures about 50 feet from the existing shoreline on the other two islands. The offshore structures include three rock mounds and one experimental rock/log island. The total length of the four structures is about 750 feet.

Offshore structures would be constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in April or May, 2003. Access to the outer island is dependant on high water; therefore, the project may need to be completed in two stages.

The FWS is seeking public comment on the project through March 10, 2003. Copies of the project are available for review at the La Crosse District Office, located at 555 Lester Avenue, Onalaska, WI 54650. Please contact the La Crosse District Office at 608/783-8405 for additional information.